to their places of residence. The salient features of modified transfer guidelines are as under:—

(i) The concept of "displacement transfers" has been done away with.

(ii) The transfers should mostly be done only against vacancies on the basis of requests received for the same.

(iii) In general, teachers/staff members will not be transferred except on administrative grounds.

(iv) The concept of surplus teachers has been changed from the existing criteria of declaring the teachers with longest stay as surplus to the teachers with least number of years served in a particular Vidyalaya.

(v) In order to ensure that there is minimum disruption of teachers from Kendriya Vidyalayas, it has been decided that even in case of promotion of teachers, the teachers can continue to work in the same Vidyalaya provided there is a vacancy. In case there is no vacancy he/she can exercise his request for the nearest available vacancies.

(vi) In order to provide relief to teachers who resigns from the service or were dismissed following their inability to join in places of posting as a result of transfer guidelines of the year 2000, a Committee has been constituted to consider the appeals of such teachers. They can appeal before this committee latest by 15th December, 2004 and this committee would take a decision within a month after that. This humane approach in the current transfer policy has been widely appreciated and it is hoped that within a year or two the KVS will be able to redress the grievances of all the affected teachers to a substantial extent.

Casualties in practical classes of chemistry

376. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of accidents and deaths have been reported involving the students/Laboratory Assistants engaged in practical classes in chemistry in Delhi University and various colleges thereunder during the past few years and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Funding gap for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal Scheme

377. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are facing a huge funding gap of Rs. 12,000 crores in implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid Day Meal Scheme over the next five years, even though it would mop up an estimated Rs. 28,000 crores through the additional impost of the 2 per cent cess on all Central taxes for the purpose; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to bridge the gap and to ensure that SSA programme is implemented with full vigour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The issue of future requirements of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) programmes will be examined by the Planning Commission as part of its Mid-Term Appraisal exercise for the Tenth Five Year Plan. If the exercise reveals that the cess alone is insufficient to fully meet the needs of these programmes, additional resources may have to be found for them. It is noteworthy that external assistance to the tune of Rs. 4700 crores has already been mobilized for SSA for the period 2003-07.

(b) Extensive financial and other support is being provided to State Government to enable them to vigorously implement Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Opening of New Central Universities

378. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to open two new Central Universities in Manipur and the other at Allahabad by converting the existing State Universities; and

(b) if so, by when the exercise in this regard is likely to be completed and legislations on the subject to be introduced in Parliament?